

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown below. Please cancel Claims 1-3 and 8-19 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A relay unit ~~according to Claim 2, comprising:~~

an input terminal communicably coupled to a remote control unit, for receiving signals from said remote control unit;

an output terminal communicably coupled to an optical unit having a focus lens, the output terminal for providing said signals from the remote control unit to the optical unit; and

first switching signal input means for controlling the focus lens by switching between automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands from said remote control unit,

wherein said input terminal is communicably coupled to second switching signal input means for controlling the focus lens by switching between speed control and positional control of the focus lens, and

wherein output signals from said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with switching signals output from said second switching signal input means.

5. (currently amended) A relay unit ~~according to Claim 3, comprising:~~

an input terminal communicably coupled to a remote control unit, for receiving

signals from said remote control unit;

an output terminal communicably coupled to an optical unit having a focus lens,
the output terminal for providing said signals from the remote control unit to the optical
unit; and

first switching signal input means for controlling the focus lens by switching
between automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands from said
remote control unit,

wherein said input terminal is communicably coupled to first remote command
generating means for performing remote operations to control the focus lens, and

wherein output signals from said first switching signal input means are
multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said first remote
command generating means.

6. (currently amended) A relay unit according to Claim ~~4~~ 4, ~~comprising setting~~
~~state display means for displaying the setting state of said first switching signal input~~
~~means~~wherein signals associated with automatic focal point detection focusing and
remote commands output from the said first switching signal input means are multiplexed
with signals associated with speed control and positional control of the focus lens output
from said second switching input means to generate multiplex signals.

7. (currently amended) A relay unit according to Claim ~~4~~ 5, ~~wherein said first~~
~~switching signal input means switch control of said focus lens between automatic focal~~
~~point detection focusing of an automatic focal point detection focus control means and~~
~~control of said focus lens by remote commands from said remote control unit, by~~
~~momentary action~~wherein signals associated with automatic focal point detection
focusing and remote commands output from the first switching signal input means are
multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said first remote

command generating means to generate multiplex signals.

Claims 8-19 (canceled)

20. (new) A focal point detection system comprising:

an optical unit having a focus lens;

a remote control unit for remotely controlling said focus lens in said optical unit;

and

a relay unit including an input terminal communicably coupled between said remote control unit and said optical unit, for receiving signals from said remote control unit, the relay unit including an output terminal communicably coupled to the optical unit for providing said signals from the remote control unit to the optical unit, the relay unit including first switching signal input means for controlling the focus lens by switching between automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands from said remote control unit, wherein said input terminal is communicably coupled to second switching signal input means for controlling the focus lens by switching between speed control and positional control of the focus lens, and wherein output signals from said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with switching signals output from said second switching signal input means.

21. (new) A focal point detection system according to Claim 20, wherein signals associated with automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands output from the said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with signals associated with speed control and positional control of the focus lens output from said second switching input means to generate multiplex signals.

22. (new) A focal point detection system comprising:

an optical unit having a focus lens;

a remote control unit for remotely controlling said focus lens in said optical unit;

and

a relay unit including an input terminal communicably coupled between said remote control unit and said optical unit, for receiving signals from said remote control unit, the relay unit including an output terminal communicably coupled to the optical unit for providing said signals from the remote control unit to the optical unit, the relay unit including first switching signal input means for controlling the focus lens by switching between automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands from said remote control unit, wherein said input terminal is communicably coupled to first remote command generating means for performing remote operations to control the focus lens, and wherein output signals from said first switching signal input means are multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said first remote command generating means.

23. (new) A focal point detection system according to Claim 22, wherein signals associated with automatic focal point detection focusing and remote commands output from the first switching signal input means are multiplexed with remote command control signals output from said first remote command generating means to generate multiplex signals.